

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence**

**THROUGH: Deputy Director/Intelligence**

**SUBJECT: Comments on Memorandum from  
Mr. Lee A. Hoegh, Director, OCDM,  
Concerning Soviet Civil Defense, to  
General Goodpaster, dated 17 November 1959.**

1. This memorandum is for your information and is in response  
to Major Eisenhower's request to [REDACTED] for comments on  
paragraph 1 of the subject memorandum, which states:

25X1X7 "At the /NATO/ meeting, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] revealed that Russia had deep shelters for  
25 percent of its people and that 85 percent of the  
Russian people had taken a 22-hour civil defense  
course of instruction. He reported these figures were  
based upon intelligence and upon statements made by  
various Russians."

2. The statements attributed to [REDACTED] are at variance  
with the most recent report, dated August 1959, of the [REDACTED]

25X1X7 [REDACTED] concerning Soviet civil defense. The [REDACTED] 25X1X7  
report states:

a. About one third of the housing in Soviet cities now  
consists of masonry apartments built since 1950, and these

are probably provided with basement shelters, at least in the more important towns.

b. Soviet claims that 85 percent of the USSR's population have completed a ten-hour course and that the more advanced 22-hour course has been given to 25 percent of the people are repeated without evaluation.

3. In contrast with Mr. Hoegh's statement concerning Soviet shelters, the <sup>25X1X7</sup> report refers only to urban population, not to total population. Further, the <sup>25X1X7</sup> report clearly is estimating light, or basement type shelters for a maximum of one third of the urban population, not heavy or deep shelters. Research in CIA leads to the conclusion that only about 20 percent of the city population in the USSR could be accommodated in existing shelters and that most of these shelters are of the relatively light basement type, which afford little protection against blast effects.

4. Concerning the numbers of people in the USSR who have completed the 22-hour civil defense course, available intelligence leads us to believe that only about 50 percent of the total population has completed such training. We note that the Soviet claim of 85 percent completion was for the 10-hour course.

5. In summary, Mr. Hoegh's memorandum credits the Soviets with a far more advanced state of civil defense preparation

25X1X7

than is reflected in either CIA or [REDACTED] intelligence reports.

**OTTO E. GUTHE**  
Assistant Director  
Research and Reports

**Distribution:**

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OAD/RR [REDACTED] 8845 (2 December 1959)

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